

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A multi-operator ticketing system comprising first means specific to a first operator for acquiring information from a ticket issued by said first operator and for authorising a service according to the information acquired, and consulate means for receiving information from a ticket issued by another operator and for transmitting to the first means authorisation to render said service according to the information obtained and processed in a manner specific to the consulate means.
2. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the service authorisation is dependent on prior performance of a transaction.
3. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the processing of information by the first means and the consulate means are concealed with respect to each other.
4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the consulate means is physically included in the first means.

5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the consulate means is physically external to the first means.

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 further including a central unit and a set of remote stations to acquire the information from the tickets and to perform transactions, which remote stations are connected to the central unit by first transmission circuits.

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6, wherein each remote station comprises a consulate.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6 wherein the central unit comprises second transmission circuits for transmitting to the other operator the data corresponding to transactions effected on behalf of said other operator.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6 wherein the central unit comprises third transmission circuits for transmitting from the other operator to the consulate means information concerning methods of processing, by the consulate means, of the information carried by the ticket.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein said services pertain to a common transportation system and the remote stations are validators for access

to transportation vehicles, and wherein the information carried by the tickets ~~being~~ is read by the validators.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 10, wherein the tickets are information carriers ~~such as tickets~~ each comprising a plastic or cardboard substrate with a magnetic strip, ~~plastic or cardboard, or contact or contactless smart cards.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein the services pertain to a mobile telephony system and the remote stations are base stations in mobile telephony networks, and wherein the information carried by the tickets ~~being~~ is read by mobile telephones and transmitted to the base stations.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 12, wherein the tickets are in portable telephone form with associated mobile telephony smart card.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein the services pertain to a banking system and the remote stations are dispensing terminals, and wherein the information carried by the tickets ~~being~~ is read by the dispensing terminals.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 14, wherein the tickets are in the form of credit cards, with a chip or magnetic tape.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the services pertain to systems with different purposes.

17. (New) A system according to claim 10, wherein the tickets are information carriers embodied in smart cards.